

EMMA FRANCIS.

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JANUARY 13, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9943.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, having considered the bill (H. R. 9943) granting a pension to Emma Francis, and the evidence relating thereto, respectfully report:

Emma Francis is the widow of Hiram Francis, who enlisted under the name Harman Francis, in Company K, Ninety-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and served therein until March, 1864, when he reenlisted as a veteran, went home on veteran furlough with his regiment, and while there persuaded his brother, George, to take his place and answer to and serve under his name. This George did, with the knowledge of the officers and comrades of the company, as shown by the evidence brought out on special examination. Emma Francis's claim was rejected on the ground that her husband was not discharged from the service for which he reenlisted. This is true, and technically his widow has no legal title to pension, but he served one full term, from which he was honorably discharged, and there was nothing dishonorable about his separation from the service under his reenlistment, as the substitution of his brother was made with the knowledge and consent of his officers, and nothing was lost to the service.

The Commissioner of Pensions, in a letter referring this case to your committee, says:

I am of the opinion that a special act for her relief would be equitable and just, and I would recommend that it be passed.

Your committee are unanimously of the same opinion, and report the bill back with the recommendation that it do pass.